

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2011 - 18

Resolution Supporting Veteran Benefits Funding

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 **WHEREAS**, Barron County veterans receive the majority of their state veteran
2 benefits through the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA); and

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4 **WHEREAS**, the Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) is WDVA's primary means of
5 financing the multitude of benefits provided to the veterans of Barron County; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, the VTF, started in 1947 with proceeds from a statewide liquor tax,
8 and later funded by periodic infusions of general purpose revenue and proceeds from
9 WDVA loan programs, has steadily decreased in size due to declining interest rates and
10 investment earnings, along with increased demand for programs/services; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the cost to provide and administer benefits provided through the
13 VTF is almost entirely funded by proceeds from WDVA loan programs, resulting in a
14 situation whereby the veterans of our state are essentially funding their own benefits and
15 services; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, the VTF is forecasted to be into a negative cash flow and
18 completely insolvent as early as late FY-2012/early FY-2013; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, this will result in cessation of vital and in many cases mandated
21 services to our veterans during an unprecedented time of financial need, to include Aid to
22 Needy Veterans Grants, Veteran Retraining Grants, Military Funeral Honors Program,
23 County Veteran Service Officer Grant Program, Personal Loan Program, Federal Claims
24 Assistance, VetEd Reimbursement Grants, Aid to Indigent Veterans, Disabled American
25 Veterans Transportation Grant, County Transportation Grant, Veterans Assistance
26 Program, Outreach Programs, State Veteran Cemeteries, and Veteran's Museums; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, it is only right that our veterans should continue to have the services
29 they have earned and the support they need, particularly in this time of war and economic
30 crisis, to enable them to contribute to Barron County's economy as productive,
31 independent citizens.

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33 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Veterans Service Committee /
34 Commission on May 19, 2011 on a vote of 6 – 0 with Leff, Nyhagen, Stavran,
35 Pichelman, Avery and Jacobson voting in favor and no members voting against.

36
37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Barron County Board of
38 Supervisors fully supports any and all efforts to provide additional state funding to
39 forestall any VTF insolvency within the next biennium, including, but not limited to, the
40 exploration of permanent state funding for WDVA and the veteran programs and benefits
41 that WDVA oversees.

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Barron County Board of Supervisors
44 directs the county clerk to forward a copy this resolution to the Office of the Governor
45 Scott Walker, respective State of Wisconsin legislative representatives of Barron County,
46 the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs.

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48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur
49 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
50

OFFERED THIS 20th day of June, 2011.

<p>Number of readings required: One (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority () 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Details: N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ N/A - Future years total amount: \$ N/A - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ N/A - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <hr/> <p>Jodi Busch, Lead Fiscal Coordinator</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Failed () Tabled ()</p> <p>Approved as to form by Corporation Counsel:</p> <hr/> <p>John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<hr/> <p>Larry Leff, Chair Veterans Service Committee / Commission</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p>
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Motion: (Olson/Christensen) to approve Consent Agenda. Carried.